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Invaluable for Stoutness and  
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Per doz. quarts..... \$7.25  
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H. PRICE & CO.,  
12, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong

Daily

Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

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The only Reliable Brand is  
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H. PRICE & CO.,  
12, Queen's Road Central.

No. 14,374 號肆拾柒百零肆年月日 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 1904. 三拜禮 號柒十式月肆零肆百零肆年月日 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 1904. 三拜禮 號柒十式月肆零肆百零肆年月日 HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 1904. 三拜禮

TO KEEP YOUR HOUSES SWEET AND  
CLEAN USE

WATSON'S  
HYGIENOL.

THE BEST LIQUID DISINFECTANT  
ON THE MARKET.

A. S. WATSON & CO.  
LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

[a1545]

CUTLER, PALMER & CO.  
PRICE \$10.00 PER DOZEN  
NET

"SPECIAL BLEND" WHISKY  
Blend  
Selected  
Distillations of the  
Finest Scotch Whiskies  
Apply to  
SIEMSSSEN & CO., Hongkong. [a46]

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY.

PORLTAND CEMENT.  
Casks of 375 lbs. net \$4.75 per Cask ex Factory.  
Bags of 250 lbs. net \$2.85 per bag ex Factory.  
SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,  
General Managers.  
Hongkong, 14th August, 1903. [a389]

VICTORIA CYCLE EMPORIUM  
We are Sole Agents for the following:-  
MONOPOLE, FUTURE, CENTAUR, and  
NEW PREMIER CYCLES. Best American  
Machines in the Market, always on View and  
for Sale. Also a Large Assortment of SECOND-  
HAND MACHINES of various makes,  
nearly as good as new, at greatly reduced prices.  
MOTOR CYCLES, MAIL CARTS,  
RICKSHAS FITTED with PNEUMATIC  
TYRES and BALL BEARINGS throughout.  
Everything in the trade always kept in  
Stock. First-class workmanship guaranteed in  
all branches of the business. Enamelling a  
peculiarity. MCKILROY & CO.,  
60a Queen's Road East.

FOR SALE.

THE "NAGASAKI MEDICAL HALL"  
and "AERATED WATER PLANT"  
as a Going Concern.  
Apply to  
R. H. POWERS & CO., Nagasaki.  
Hongkong, 22nd April, 1904. [a1074]

FOR SALE.

THE HOUSE NO. 4, STEWART  
TERRACE, PEAK. Five Rooms and  
Offices, with FURNITURE.  
Also

The large CROQUET LAWN above the  
Terrace (about 20,000 square feet) with equipment.  
Nominal CROWN RENT.  
Price: \$19,000, of which two-thirds can  
remain on mortgage.

For Further Particulars, apply to  
TURNER & CO.  
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1904. [a618]

MANILA.

FOR SALE as a going concern, HOTEL  
COMPANY, comprising two First-class  
Hotels in Manila, with Library Stables attached.  
Intending purchasers will please apply for  
further particulars to  
M. H. G.  
Care of Daily Press Office.  
Hongkong, 13th April, 1904. [a901]

FOR SALE.

HOUSE BOAT, 42 foot long, Copper  
bottom, now lying off Ali King's slip-way.  
Offers may be sent to  
V.  
Care of Daily Press Office.  
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1904. [a800]

CARTRIDGES.

IMPORTED EVERY MONTH, THERE-  
FORE ALWAYS FRESH.

ELEY'S, SCHULITZ'S, AMBERITE  
and KYNOCK'S SPORTING  
CARTRIDGES 8, 10, 12, 16, and 20 BORE,  
and NEWCASTLE CHILLED SHOT in  
all sizes, Nos. 10 to SSSG. AIR GUNS and  
AMMUNITION in variety.  
WM. SCHMIDT & CO.  
Hongkong, 28th November, 1902. [a130]

DAVID CORSAK & SON'S  
MERCHANT NAVY  
NAVY BOILED  
ONG FLAX  
RELIANCE CROWN  
TARPAULING  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.  
Sole Agents.

CUTLER, PALMER & CO.

ESTABLISHED IN LONDON IN 1815.

SHIPERS TO CHINA FOR 75 YEARS.

The following are some of their Stocks with the undersigned:-

SUPERB OLD COGNAC,  
\$23.50 PER DOZ.

Distinguished by Four Stars on the label.

ANOTHER FINE COGNAC, \$18.50 per doz.

Less old than the above.

IMPERIAL BRANDY  
\$12.00 PER CASE.

THE ELITE OF WHISKY—  
THE "PALL MAIL,"  
\$21 PER DOZ.

11 Years old: the finest quality shipped.  
Each bottle bears an Analyst's certificate.

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BLEND WHISKY,

\$11.00 PER DOZ.  
Very soft, palatable, and mature.  
EVERYBODY SHOULD TRY THESE ITEMS

AGENTS—SIEMSSSEN & CO., HONGKONG. [a45]

W. BREWER & CO.

23 and 25, QUEEN'S ROAD.

Wide World Magazine; Volume 12	\$4.60	A Woman of Wiles, by Munro	\$0.45
A. B. C. Cedes; 5th Edition	18.50	A Canadian Girl, by Lt.-Col. Haggard	1.75
The Hand Royal Atlas	18.50	The Handy Royal Atlas	1.75
Through the Highlands of Siberia	13.00	Toy Gods, by Pickering	1.75
Stanley Gibbon's Stamp Catalogue; 2 Vols.	3.50	Four Red Roses, by Tyler	1.75
Pear's Cyclopeda	0.90	Sly Boots, by Strange Winter	1.75
Orders Received for the Series.	0.60		
Strong Man, by Crockett	1.75		
Keith Johnstone's War Map	0.80		
The Revellers, by Louis Tracy	1.75		
The Leopard's Spots, by T. Dixon	1.75		
The Japs at Home, by Sladen	0.45		
The Cardinal's Snuff Box, by Harland	0.45		
Pearson's Dream Book	0.80		
The Deliverance, by Ellen Glasgow	1.75		
Room Five, by Drummond	1.75		
The American Prisoner, by Philpotts	1.75		
Countess Ida, by Wishaw	1.75		

NEW STOCK

PLAYING CARDS.

GENTLEMEN'S BOOTS AND SHOES.

BLACK AND BROWN.

THE FAY SHOES TYPE-WRITER.

COTTAM & CO.

LATEST NOVELTIES IN NECKWEAR.

HONGKONG HOTEL BUILDINGS. [a38]

AWAY IN THE LEAD AND STILL GAINING.

BORATED LAVENDER  
BATH AMMONIA  
EXPRESSLY PREPARED  
FOR TOILET USE.

ANTISEPTIC

This new preparation will be found to combine the aromatic properties of the French Toilet Waters with the cleansing power of Ammonia.

DELICATELY PERFUMED with the sweet odour of MITCHAM LAVENDER the bath has a new charm.

The addition of antiseptics REMOVES SKIN IMPURITIES, it is a Specific

against PRICKLY HEAT and MOSQUITO-BITES.

MADE SPECIALLY FOR THE EAST BY

WATKINS LIMITED,  
APOTHECARIES' HALL, HONGKONG.

TRY IT IN YOUR BATH. [a37]

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NERNST ELECTRIC LIGHT.

BEAUTY OF ILLUMINATION COMBINED WITH GREAT ECONOMY

AS CHEAP AS GAS!

FOR PARTICULARS APPLY TO  
EDM. JOHANNSEN OR SIEMSSSEN & CO. [a53]

VERMOUTHS

FRENCH  
NOILLY, PRAT & CIE.

TAILLAN'S CRISTAL (VERY DRY).

ITALIAN  
BALDI (DRY).

MARTINI SOLA (SWEET).

CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.  
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

15, Queen's Road,  
Hongkong, 16th April, 1904.

Telephone No. 75.

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FILMS,

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DEVELOPING AND PRINTING UNDERTAKEN.

GOOD WORK, PROMPT RETURN.

LONG, HING & CO.,

PHOTO GOODS STORE,

17A, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1903. [a38]

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.  
ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT.

SOLE AGENTS IN CHINA FOR:  
THE ALLGEMEINE ELECTRICITATS GESELLSCHAFT, BERLIN.  
MESSRS. KOERTING BROS., HANNOVER.  
THE COMPANY OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY, BERLIN.  
MESSRS. MIX & GENEST, BERLIN.

PRIVATE ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT'S A SPECIALTY  
Fully detailed Estimates drawn up free of charge upon application to the above.  
Hongkong 3rd December, 1903. [a33]

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THE CHOICE, AND LARGEST VARIETY, FROM PARIS AND LONDON.

MARRONS GLACES, CRYSTALLISED FRUITS.

TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS.

XMAS PLUM PUDDINGS.

DATES, FIGS, RAISINS, ALMONDS and NUTS.

STILTON, CHEDDAR, GORGONZOLA, ROQUEFORT, CAMEMBERT,  
CHEESE, SAVOIE, CREAM CHEESE, MACLAEN'S and YOUNG AMERICAN  
CHEESE.

YORK HAM and BEST ENGLISH BACON.

TOYS. TOYS.

G. GIRAUT.

[a40]

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LONDON,  
AND  
ELECTRIZITAETS ACTIEN GESELLSCHAFT VORM.

W. LAHMEYER & CO., FRANKFURT A/M.

FOR ESTIMATES OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS OF ANY DESCRIPTION  
Apply to SIEMSSSEN & CO., SOLE AGENTS FOR CHINA. [a5]

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STRONG MAC, by S. R. Crockett	\$1.75	MANCHURIA AND KOREA, by H. J. Wigham	0.80
THE SINDA'S OATH, by B. Mitford	1.75	ENCAMPMENTS MADE EASY, Illustrated	0.80
THE FILIGREE HALL, by A. K. Green	1.75	THE "DAILY MAIL" MILITARY MAP	3.00
DAVID MARCH, by J. S. Fletcher	1.75	OF KOREA	3.00
ABANDONED, by Clark Russell	1.75	STANFORD'S NEW MAP OF THE SHAT	5.25
A CRIMINAL CROSSING, by Geo. Griffith	1.75	OF WAR	5.25
ESAU, by J. Hocking	1.75	THE "DAILY MAIL" WAR MAP	0.80
THE REVELLERS, by L. Tracy	1.75	STANFORD'S MAP OF THE SIBERIAN	13.50
THE WHITE WOLF, by Q. STANFORD'S MAP OF EASTERN CHINA,	1.75	RAILWAY	13.50
THE REAR CHARLOTTE, by S. Merville	1.75	JAPAN AND KOREA	

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THE MOST  
CELEBRATED  
CHATEAUX  
IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.

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C. ST. JULIEN (Red Capsule)	10.00	11.00
D. LA ROSE (Red Capsule)	13.50	14.50
CHATEAU HAUT BRION LARIVET	20.00	22.00
CHATEAU A MOUTON DALMAILHACQ	24.00	26.00
CHATEAU PONTE CANET	28.00	—
CHATEAU LA TOUR CARNET	33.00	—
CHATEAU RAUZEN	48.00	—
CHATEAU LAFITE	54.00	—

A. S. WATSON & CO.  
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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

[31]

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should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Correspondents must forward their names and ad-  
dress with communications addressed to the Editor,  
not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on  
one side of the paper only.

No anonymously signed communications that have  
already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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Lieber's  
P.O. Box, 33. Telephone No. 12

DEATH.  
On the 16th April, at Hankow, Sigmund  
ROSENBAUM.

The Daily Press.  
HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.  
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 27TH APRIL, 1904

Since Mr. CHAMBERLAIN in August last  
wrote to the Hongkong Government his  
despatch with reference to the resolution on  
the currency question passed by the members  
of the local Chamber of Commerce at  
a special general meeting on the previous  
18th February, public discussion on the  
subject has practically ceased. It has been  
felt that it is useless to go on talking when  
the home authorities have declared their  
belief in the inexpediency of further  
discussion at the present stage on the possi-  
bility of a gold standard in Hongkong and  
have pronounced that it is "out of the  
question" to consider Hongkong apart from  
China in the matter. There has appeared  
no way of getting round the position taken  
up by Downing Street. But we are glad  
to see, nevertheless, that the Hongkong  
Chamber of Commerce has not dropped the  
question. In the report to be presented  
at the annual meeting this afternoon, it  
will be seen, the subject is dealt with. The  
report remarks that it is no doubt too early  
to expect that any material result has been  
attained, up to the time of writing, in the  
direction of furthering the cause of currency  
reform with the Chinese Government. But  
joint efforts of the Hongkong, Shanghai, and  
Tientsin Chambers cannot be entirely in  
vain. As is shown by the report, and still  
more fully in Appendix H to the report, it  
was the Tientsin Chamber which made the  
first advance, writing to Hongkong on the  
25th of last May, stating that it was con-  
sidering the drafting of a memorial to the  
Diplomatic Body at Peking on the subject  
of instability of exchange and its disastrous

We are asked to remind members of the  
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce of  
the Annual Meeting at the City Hall at 3.30  
p.m. to day.

The Japanese Government states that the  
Asians found a Russian mine floating forty  
miles from Shantung Promontory. There are  
probably many more adrift. Neutral ships are  
cautioned.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial  
and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge  
with thanks the following donation to the funds  
of the Hospitals:—Sheung Wan Market Park  
Guild, \$13.

The meeting of the Legislative Council  
yesterday must have been about the shortest on  
record. Five minutes served to clear off all  
the business, and the Finance Committee  
meeting held afterwards was over in another five.

According to a statement made in the  
Bankruptcy Court the last Indian tour of John  
Roberts, the famous billiard player, has not been  
successful. At Madras on one occasion he and  
his wife were stranded without means. Roberts  
had received his discharge in bankruptcy subject  
to a judgment for £1,600 being entered up,  
and he had paid £300 since 1900.

effects on China's trade. The Tientsin Com-  
mittee had good reason for believing that  
the Chinese Government was taking  
action, and therefore suggested that the  
two southern Chambers should join the  
Tientsin Chamber in a memorial. The  
Hongkong Committee, however, seeing the  
difficulty of the proposed memorial, which  
would probably necessitate the Committees  
discussing the terms very fully, advised as  
a first step the establishment by China of  
an uniform national currency, as was  
provided for by Article XI. of the 1902  
(MACKAY) commercial treaty. The next  
step was taken by the Shanghai Chamber's  
Committee, which sent to Hongkong on the  
25th June, a proposed draft memorial, the  
scope of which the Hongkong Committee  
was glad to find had been confined to em-  
phasising the need of a national coinage for  
China. Tientsin, on the 15th July, wrote  
expressing agreement with the Hongkong  
and Shanghai views, with one slight amend-  
ment providing for the closing of the provincial  
mints. Hongkong, however, urged the  
substitution of "absorption" for  
"closing" and carried the point. The  
memorial accordingly was altered and on  
the 6th August was forwarded to H. E.  
Mr. E. H. CONGEL, *doyen* of the Diplomatic  
Body at Peking. This document ran as  
follows:—

"We, the undersigned Chambers of Com-  
merce of Shanghai, Hongkong, and Tien-  
tsin, respectfully beg to bring to your  
notice the serious disabilities under which  
this Country labours by reason of the  
violent fluctuations in the gold value of  
silver, and the pressing need thereby  
caused for the prompt introduction of  
remedial measures.

"In approaching this subject we are fully  
aware of the difficulties with which it is  
surrounded, but while in no way seeking  
to minimise these difficulties we venture  
to think that if the Treaty Powers shew  
their desire to render to China their sym-  
pathetic assistance, she may be encouraged  
to take the initiative in endeavouring to  
extricate the country from the financial  
confusion into which it has drifted and to  
avert the ruin which further inaction  
seems to threaten.

"Under Clause II. of the Treaty recently  
concluded with Great Britain, China  
agreed to take the necessary steps to pro-  
vide for an uniform National coinage, and  
it is in the fulfilment of this clause of the  
treaty (which to be effective must include  
the absorption of the provincial mints)  
that we recognise the preliminary step to  
the much needed reforms.

"It is hardly necessary to point out how  
essential it is to the Powers carrying on  
trade with China—and no less to China  
herself—that this question of an uniform  
coinage, as a preliminary step to the  
establishment of a currency on a gold  
basis, be taken in hand at once, now, on  
the other hand, to demonstrate the dangers  
attendant on delay. It is only too well  
known by traders that the constant  
fluctuation of silver, converting as it may,  
a profitable contract into an ultimate loss,  
engenders feeling of insecurity in all  
commercial transactions which cannot fail  
to hinder the expansion of trade.

"Moved by these considerations and feel-  
ing confident that whatever measures may  
subsequently be found to be desirable or  
feasible, the first step is the establish-  
ment of a national coinage, as provided for by  
treaty, we respectfully beg that the re-  
presentatives of the treaty powers in  
Peking lose no opportunity of urging  
upon the Chinese Government the im-  
perative necessity of taking this matter in  
hand without delay."

A short letter of acknowledgement was  
received from Peking, the Diplomatic Body  
expressing itself as "highly interested"  
and "greatly appreciating the efforts and  
zeal" of the three Chambers. And there,  
as far as we know, the matter rests. But it is  
impossible that the memorial can fail  
to hasten in some degree that promised  
reform of China's currency to which we in  
Hongkong are forced by those who govern  
us to look for our own future relief from  
the difficulties of an ever-fluctuating ex-  
change.

We are asked to remind members of the  
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce of  
the Annual Meeting at the City Hall at 3.30  
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The Japanese Government states that the  
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yesterday must have been about the shortest on  
record. Five minutes served to clear off all  
the business, and the Finance Committee  
meeting held afterwards was over in another five.

According to a statement made in the

Prince Adalbert of Prussia is to visit Peking  
on the 5th prox.

Yi Chi-yong, the Corean Special Envoy to  
Japan, arrived at Tokyo on the 22nd instant.

A decree has been issued creating an agency  
of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine at Singapore.

An organ recital will be given in S. John's  
Cathedral on Friday next at 5 p.m. by Mr.  
A. G. Ward. The vocalist will be Mr. G. H.  
Edwards.

A general meeting of subscribers to the  
Hongkong Nursing Institute will be held in the  
City Hall at noon to-day to discuss the advisability  
of building a home for the nurses.

A letter written at Seoul by our special cor-  
respondent in the War will be found on p. 5  
to-day; and the annual report of the Hongkong  
General Chamber of Commerce will be found  
on p. 9.

H.E. Yuan Shikai has now under his  
command in the North a total force of 36,100  
men, of all arms, consisting of 25,000 Infantry,  
5,750 Cavalry, 3,830 Artillerymen, 1,000  
Pioneers, and 500 Transport Corps.

At an entertainment at the Country Club,  
Shanghai, last week Mr. C. H. P. Hay, formerly  
so prominent in our local A. D. C. performances,  
played the part of the "Learned Judge" in *Trial by Jury*.

The U.S. battleship *Kearsarge* has scored  
six hits out of seven shots fired in 720 secs.  
from her 13in guns. The distance was 1,600  
yards, and the dimensions of the target were  
17ft. by 21ft.

The P. & T. Times says that a German lawyer  
has been retained by the Board of Punishments  
to draw up the new code of Penal Laws for the  
Chinese. He is expected to arrive in Peking  
shortly.

Mr. J. F. O'Brien has arrived in Macao, to  
which he journeyed on Monday on the *Hueng-  
shai* from Hongkong, to take up the duties of  
Commissioner of Customs, vice Mr. R. B. Moor-  
head, who has gone home on leave.

The *Straits Echo* has an article on "The  
Penang Post Office. Is it a Public Scandal?"  
to which it answers, Yes. Our contemporary  
contrasts the very different way in which  
postal affairs are conducted in Hongkong and  
Shanghai.

Six more plague cases were reported during  
the day ended at noon yesterday. Five were  
Chinese and fatal, three being in Kowloon City,  
and two in First Street. The remaining case  
was that of an Indian at a police-station in No.  
12 Health District.

Field-Marshal Marquis Yamagata is about  
seventy years old. Field-Marshal Count Oyama  
is sixty-one. General Nozu is also sixty-one.  
General Kuraki is fifty-nine. Lieutenant-  
General Baron Kodama is just over fifty.  
Baron Oku is three or four years younger. In  
Japan, it seems, it is not the striplings only who  
go to war, says the *N.C. Daily News*.

In Chicago Justice John R. McDonnell  
twice fined, President Arthur Hirsch of the  
Independent Steel Company for contempt of  
court. Continuing obstreperous Judge Mc-  
Donnell left the woolsack and gave the litigant  
a terrific smash in the eye, following it with a  
leathanded "hook" under the chin, which lifted  
President Hirsch into the jury-box. Then,  
returning to the bench, he said, "Call the next  
case." This is forceful justice indeed.

Opposites of the visit of the Pope's delegate  
to Macao, the story is going the rounds that  
one of his reverence's suite who had some  
favours done to him by a mercantile marine  
officer *en route*, repaid these by a promise of his  
blessings. "Don't forget," said the graceless  
M. M. man, "that my number in the Macao  
lottery is 15—." It is said the reverend  
padre enjoyed the joke as well as the  
perpetrator.

Imperial Decrees have been issued from  
Peking, in response to the memorials of H. E.  
Viceroy Shun, commanding that two Major-  
Generals of Kwansi Province be cashiered and  
dismissed from service for ever, an Expectant  
Taotai of the same be cashiered, and a sub-pre-  
fect to be cashiered and banished to the military  
post roads; and that a large number of civil and  
military officials of Kwangtung be either cashiered  
and banished, or cashiered and retired.

From Shanghai we have received the first  
number of a fortnightly Jewish paper devoted  
to the interests of Jews and Judaism in the  
East. The title given to the paper is *Israel's  
Messenger*. Among the contents there is a  
note remarking that the Jewish community in  
Hongkong has not yet followed the example of  
their brethren in the faith at Shanghai by forming  
a Zionist Association, though it is understood  
that most of the Jewish residents of the  
Colony approve of the movement. The Association  
in Shanghai has a membership of nearly 80.

The following can hardly be classed as "war  
news." It is a telegram from the *Novi Krai*,  
appropriately dated Liaoyang, 1st April.—"The  
first encounter of the troops in Corea was a  
brilliant victory for the Russian arms. The  
Japanese lost ten times as many men as we did.  
According to the Coreans, the Japanese buried  
fifty dead. Five hundred Coreans were engaged  
to carry 120 wounded. The confusion was so  
great that the Japanese waved two red cross  
flags as a signal for mercy. The total losses of  
the Japanese from the commencement of hostilities  
to the middle of February are two ironclads  
damaged, one cruiser sunk, eleven destroyers  
sunk, and in addition, one cruiser damaged at  
the battle of Chemulpo."

According to a statement made in the  
Bankruptcy Court the last Indian tour of John  
Roberts, the famous billiard player, has not been  
successful. At Madras on one occasion he and  
his wife were stranded without means. Roberts  
had received his discharge in bankruptcy subject  
to a judgment for £1,600 being entered up,  
and he had paid £300 since 1900.

## TELEGRAMS.

## REUTER'S SERVICE.

## RUSSIA.—INTERNAL TROUBLES.

LONDON, 24th April.

A plot has been discovered to secure the inde-  
pendence of Poland.

An attempt to blow up two new Russian  
cruisers armoured in the Neva, by means of  
explosives floating down the river, has been  
discovered.

## THE STRIKE IN HUNGARY.

LONDON, 24th April.

The Hungarian railway strikers have express-  
ed their willingness to accept the terms of the  
Government and return to work.

## FRANCE AND ITALY.

LONDON, 24th April.

President Loubet has arrived at Rome. He  
was met by the King at the station and  
proceeded to the Quirinal. The ovations from  
an enormous crowd were most enthusiastic and  
most cordial. The whole city was gaily  
decorated and the scene was unsurpassed in  
brilliance and magnificence. The French and  
Italian Press emphasise the importance of the  
rapprochement.

## NAVAL NOTES.

## U.S.S. "MONTEREY."

The U.S. monitor *Monterey* arrived from  
Canton yesterday morning, having left that  
port the previous evening.

## THE "VASCO DA GAMA."

The Portuguese battleship *Vasco da Gama*  
has completed her scrapping, and left the  
Kowloon Docks. She is now moored at the  
foreign man-of-war anchorage.

## H.M.S. "IPHIGENIA."

H.M. cruiser *Iphigenia* was commissioned at  
Portsmouth on April 14 to relieve the *Tulbot*  
on the China Station.

## FOOCHEW ARSENAL.

The French naval constructor, M. Huet, who  
has been in charge of the work of building the  
battleship *Republique*, has been appointed by  
the Chinese authorities to direct the building of  
warships at Foochow.

## AN UNLUCKY WARSHIP.

The battleship *Missouri*, on which a gun  
explosion killed over thirty officers and seamen  
a few days ago, is an unlucky ship, or, to use  
an American expression, seems to be "hoodooed."  
A few weeks ago while going from Gustavus  
Cuba, Pensacola, she lost control of her steering  
gear and collided with the *Illinois*, injuring  
that vessel.

## THE SEOUL FIRE.

The *China Times* publishes the following  
telegrams:—

Seoul, 15th April.

The Palace has been burnt down to the  
ground. The fire began at 10 o'clock last night  
in the servants' quarters and ran like a wave  
from building to building

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## SCAVENGING, DRAINS AND CANALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 26th April.  
Sir.—The sickening season has just set in, and so far we do not see much activity on the part of the *militia sanitaria* emanating toward to quench the horrible smells emanating from the scavenging, choked drains and filthy canals in various districts of the Colony. A walk in the morning will give an exhibition of a variety of putrid matters lying at the foot of several terraces and corners of streets, with innumerable flies and small insects disputing the prey; the drains exude a peculiar odour that, if one happens to inhale it with an empty stomach, may suddenly make one fall in a fit. Now, the open canals are being the dumping place of all kinds of dirt that can be imagined, hence the cause of the dreadful stench that prevails in the vicinity of those places; for instance, the canal at West Point is one that calls for *immediate* disinfecting and flushing to prevent the outbreak of a fresh epidemic. The trumpet of the said *militia* ought to have been sounded a couple of months ago, in case perhaps this state of things would be less apparent to the public. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the insertion of these few lines.—Yours, etc.

## PREVENTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

## BAND PERFORMANCES.

Kowloon, 25th April.

Sir.—With reference to the letters in your paper on the argument as to whether the bands of Regiments should or should not give free entertainments two letters seem to me to contain much common sense, namely those of "Semibreve" and of "Gold Lace" in the paper of the 25th. Everyone knows that all soldiers are paid by and are servants of the tax-payers and should give their services free for all entertainments such as King's Birthday parades and band entertainments for nurse-girls and babies. As "Gold Lace" however says, the instruments are the property of the officers of the Regiment. Why not turn out all the band and let them use their natural instruments and sing and whistle? The same seems to me to apply to the Navy with 5 battleships and several cruisers in the harbour—why not turn out all the men to join in the chorus? To be logical and carry the argument further, why not make all members of the Government service aid? I assure His Excellency the Governor, if asked politely, be only too delighted to conduct the music, and I am sure that an entertainment of this kind would, especially if helped by the Magistrates, medical officers, members of the Educational Department and Lunatic Asylums, be a source of far greater pleasure and mirth than would be caused by the playing of a mere military band.—Yours, etc.

## LOGICAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Kowloon, 26th April.

Sir.—A correspondence as begun by "Semibreve" who is not open to conviction, and who apparently wishes to get something for nothing, is waste of time. Anyone who wishes to get at the facts of the case can do so with a little trouble.

At the same time, has it effected anything in the public interest? If the public desire to hear more music, "Semibreve" has gone the worst way about asking for the concession. If it is not a concession, let him order a band down without delay!

## LEX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 26th April.

Sir.—I have been at some pains to pick up the thread of "Gold Lace's" somewhat pointless arguments, but have been obliged to give the task up in despair. Neither do I feel disposed to gratify his hankie curiosity as to the sum I have to disburse in taxes annually. It will be sufficient, therefore, if I inform him that I do contribute along with several hundred of others in the Colony my little mite to the coffers of the Government, and therefore to the Military contribution. Whether the Military authorities spend the money they receive in building fortifications or purchasing military boots is quite beside the question at issue; the fact remains that the money is paid, and that fact alone entitles every taxpayer to sit his grievances and express his views, and this I certainly did without fear or favour. It would be advisable for "Gold Lace" in future to make quite sure of the soundness of any proposition he advances, as he has evidently quite mistaken the purport and tenor of my former letters, which were more intended for the purpose of protecting the interests and rights of the music-loving public than to study and petty grievances of officers.—Yours faithfully,

## SEMBREVE.

## WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued the following report:—

On the 26th at 11.30 a.m. The barometer has risen in China and the Philippines, and fallen greatly in the N.E. of Japan, where there exists at present a well marked depression, which appears to have come from the north-east.

Gradients are moderate on the China Coast, but are increasing, and fresh N. to NE. winds may be expected in the Formosa Channel.

Over the northern part of the China Sea they are slight and light variable winds may be expected there.

Forecast.—Light N. to NE. winds; fine.

## HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held yesterday afternoon in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCE THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCE MAJOR-GENERAL VILLELLERS HATTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).

HON. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

HON. S. H. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

HON. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. A. W. BEEWIN (Registrar-General).

HON. CAPTAIN L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE R.N. (Harbour Master).

HON. P. N. H. JONES (Acting Director of Public Works).

HON. SIR C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

HON. DR. HO KAI, C.M.G.

HON. WEN A. YU.

M. R. E. JOHNSTON (Clerk of Councils).

## FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 24 to 26) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution A be confirmed, viz., in Article 81 the words "Five Hundred Dollars" shall be substituted for the words "One Hundred and Fifty Dollars."

Mr. S. M. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution C be confirmed. In Article 102 the words "An Auditor" shall be substituted for the words "Two Auditors."

Mr. E. B. SHEPHERD seconded, and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution G be confirmed. In Article 103 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution H be confirmed. In Article 104 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution I be confirmed. In Article 105 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution J be confirmed. In Article 106 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution K be confirmed. In Article 107 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution L be confirmed. In Article 108 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution M be confirmed. In Article 109 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution N be confirmed. In Article 110 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution O be confirmed. In Article 111 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution P be confirmed. In Article 112 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution Q be confirmed. In Article 113 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution R be confirmed. In Article 114 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution S be confirmed. In Article 115 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution T be confirmed. In Article 116 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution U be confirmed. In Article 117 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution V be confirmed. In Article 118 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution W be confirmed. In Article 119 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution X be confirmed. In Article 120 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution Y be confirmed. In Article 121 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution Z be confirmed. In Article 122 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution AA be confirmed. In Article 123 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution BB be confirmed. In Article 124 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution CC be confirmed. In Article 125 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution DD be confirmed. In Article 126 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution EE be confirmed. In Article 127 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution FF be confirmed. In Article 128 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution GG be confirmed. In Article 129 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution HH be confirmed. In Article 130 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution II be confirmed. In Article 131 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution JJ be confirmed. In Article 132 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution KK be confirmed. In Article 133 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution LL be confirmed. In Article 134 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution MM be confirmed. In Article 135 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution NN be confirmed. In Article 136 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution OO be confirmed. In Article 137 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution PP be confirmed. In Article 138 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution QQ be confirmed. In Article 139 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution RR be confirmed. In Article 140 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution SS be confirmed. In Article 141 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."

Mr. M. S. NORTHCOTE seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL proposed that resolution TT be confirmed. In Article 142 the word "Auditor" shall be substituted for the word "Auditors."



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## IN COREA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

SEOUL.—A STUPENDOUS CESPOOL.

Seoul, 16th April.

The streets of Seoul are covered several feet thick with the accumulated filth of centuries, and now the Korean authorities have suddenly started trying to clean the place completely in a day or two. It has dawned on them that they ought to assume an appearance of modern civilization now, and make some show of emulating the Japanese. In fact, the Koreans are beginning to feel ashamed of their dirt in presence of so many strangers. There have never been drains in Seoul. In several parts of the town old streamlets still survive, struggling down from the adjacent hills to the big river, struggling through huge superincumbent accumulations of rubbish and garbage, the deposit of centuries of lazy life. These poor little hillside streamlets degenerate into sort of substitute for drains, and they are in fact almost stagnant, almost waterless ditches of filth. They might be called drains, perhaps.

But generally speaking, Seoul is in about the condition one would expect to find in an undrained, well-stocked farmyard, that had not been cleaned out in any way for a thousand years. The Korean seems to say, drowsily, "Why trouble to carry rubbish away? Leave it alone, it soon gets trodden into the ground, and you will never see it again. Then you save so much carrying." So all "matter which is not wanted" simply stays where it happens to fall. A walk through Seoul is a wade through orange-peel, fish-bones, eggshells, rotten cabbage, dead rats, many dogs alive in more ways than one—these are a few of the predominant features of the Korean capital.

Buildings there are almost none at all. There are mud-huts by the million. It really must be the greatest collection of pigsties in the world. I have been a good deal in the interior of China, and I thought some of those towns reached the very top notch of putridity, but I apologise to them.

Seoul is, in short, a city of hovels. The Imperial Palace would be considered not very glorious for a district magistrate in the prosperous sections of China. The great Temple of Heaven, which I suppose is the No. 1 joss-house of Corea, is shabby and bare and discreditable, compared with the Man Mo Temple in Hongkong. The foreign legations, two little hotels, the railway-station, and possibly three or four other foreign buildings, are all right, and in the Japanese quarter there is a fairly good little Japanese town, but the rest of Seoul is composed of huts and hovels, from end to end of the city. They are not all made of mats alone—some are of mud, with lumps of unctuous stone embedded in it; and some of the roofs are of tile, very rough and poor. And the Korean shopkeepers are correspondingly wretched little things. Shopkeeping is mostly done by Chinese and Japanese; and as far as I can see, all skilled labour is Chinese or Japanese too. At any rate, if you hear a sound of sawing wood, of chipping stone, of hammering nails, the whirr of a sewing-machine, any noise of native labour, and if you go to see, you usually find it is not a Korean at work. They seem generally to do little else but fetch and carry, talk, and look on.

To some readers, the recital of the manifold uncleanliness of the Koreans will seem horrible and disgusting, and some may think such things would be better unwritten. But there is need that these things should be known and understood, not merely as showing the desirability of some strong Power taking this country in-hand, but for the additional reason that the conditions may have an important influence on the actual course of the present war. Seoul is a breeding-ground of epidemic diseases. Every year Corea loses many thousands of lives by epidemics, and there has practically never been anything done to prevent them. Seoul usually has the largest death-roll because it is the largest dirt-hole. The civilised world is greatly concerned when a few hundred people are removed quickly and almost painlessly by being shot, or blown up, or bludgeoned, or drowned; it is something that interests people greatly. I think it is a matter of greater concern when many thousands die not in a flash of a moment, but gradually and with awful sufferings, in the agonies of cholera and other scourges.

The Korean official records show that there were over 370,000 deaths from cholera in 1786, including 60,000 in Seoul; the Crown Prince was one of the victims. Thirteen years later there was another epidemic, of a kind not quite clear, but it may have been the "black plague." In 1815 the land was ravaged by a kind of typhus, and 1821 saw one of the worst visitations of cholera ever known. In Seoul alone, ten thousand people died in ten days, and the disease extended its ravages into the following year. Then in 1832 began a series of famines and epidemics, chiefly cholera, continuing uninterrupted for nine years. Typhus again swept over Seoul in 1833, and there are men now living who remember seeing the corpses piled in thousands just inside the South Gate, awaiting interment. The people, desperate with hunger and suffering, became riotous, and stormed the Government granaries, but found that all the grain supposed to be stored against famine had been stolen by the officials. The Prime Minister was chiefly responsible, and had to fly for his life, hiding for months in the provinces. This brings the terrible record down to the present generation, which has been much the same. Ten years ago, the Japanese army fighting against the Chinese in Corea had an immense sick-list, and lost ten times as many lives by Korean epidemics as by Chinese bullets.

Just now, with chilly days and freezing nights, germ-life is comparatively inactive, but

the warm weather is close at hand, and will bring out the danger now dormant. Seoul lies on the surface of a stratum of ancient and modern filth that must be yards deep. In the vast majority of the houses there is no attempt at sanitation in any shape, but merely by usage, one corner of the mud floor comes to be recognised as the general latrine, and the sewage is left to meander out through a hole in the wall, at the floor level. Some few houses attain the distinction of establishing a cesspool just outside, but in most cases the bare ground is cesspool enough. The reader may think such conditions prevail only among the very lowest and poorest people who have no chance to manage better. In all countries there are extreme depths of poverty, here and there unavoidably associated with squalor and filth. But in Corea it is general. Dirty habits and disgusting indolence characterise even the highest classes.

Yet there is much hope, if they are taken in hand, for they readily respond to external influence. In fact, they seem eager to be ordered about. I think their predominant characteristic, even more than apathy, is a craving to be dominated, influenced, even bullied. Their apathy is only the sprawling of a "scarlet runner" where nobody has provided it with a pole. They need someone to direct them, and they seem the most willing people in the world. They only lack a backbone of their own, and they seem only too willing to lean on anyone.

When Marquis Ito was known to be coming to Seoul, there was a sudden rush (if such a thing is possible among Koreans) to cleanse the Auguan stables. The effort was weak and ludicrous, but it has shown a good disposition, and an anxiety for better performance in future. First, when the Seoul authorities were formally notified that the Marquis would come, as a very special messenger from Emperor to Emperor, it was unofficially hinted that the streets along which the distinguished visitor would pass were not quite a credit to the nation. So the Korean authorities very readily promised to have things cleaned up a bit, but they did not get to work on the execution of the promise till two days before Marquis Ito's arrival.

Then proclamations were posted all over the city, telling the people that the streets were disgraceful and must be cleaned. It is characteristic that the proclamation was printed on plain slips of common paper, with no official heading, no Government seal nor Imperial coat of arms, no distinguishing mark at all. It has, in fact, neither heading nor signature. Translated, it reads about as follows:—Dirt is disgraceful, therefore all householders must clean their street-fronts and gutters by the 18th of March. This is an official proclamation which must be obeyed or there will be penalties." That is all. And the Koreans gathered in wondering crowds, staring at the placard on the wall, and hazarding guesses what it might be about, till some clever man came along who could read. He would spell it out aloud, laboriously, and interrupt himself at intervals with a running fire of comment, and the rest would listen and sometimes all talk at once. They are great talkers, and their language is one of those that use up a large number of words to express any idea. Ten words of English need fifty of Corean.

There is a similar ratio of words to deeds. If there are to be ten men working there must be fifty to look on and talk. That is how the cleansing of the city proceeded. A spade, for instance, takes five men to handle it: one is captain, and holds the spade, while two have ropes tied to it and help to tow the spade through the soil, and the other two men are to look on, and take alternate spells at pulling the ropes. This is the way fields are tilled, and it is the way the garbage is being scratched up in the streets of the metropolis. The spade-blade is about the size of a drawing-room coal-shovel, and some spades have a crew of seven men. Out of curiosity I timed one crew of six; they lifted into a basket about two cubic feet of rubbish in twenty minutes. About every five minutes all hands would knock off work to discuss the weather, or the futility of human effort, and to give their nether garments another hitch. Seldom can you see half a dozen Koreans together but at least one of them at any given moment must be hitching up his trousers and readjusting his waistband, for these people tie themselves together so negligently that they never stay tied long.

These gangs of coolies have been working in various parts of the city, listlessly digging up the dirt from roadside ditches and piling it in heaps on the roadway. It was quite a long time before they reached the next stage, the removal of the heaps, and by that time a good deal of the stuff had slipped back to where it came from. It is of the blue-black slimy sort, with an effluvium strong enough to stop a clock. The workmen carefully stacked this in mounds at the street corners in time for the arrival of Marquis Ito, and no doubt he regarded the heaps as emblematic decorations, suggesting "The old order changeth, giving place to new."

In front of the Emperor's palace I saw 37 men lift one telegraph pole, while nearly 100 workmen looked on. It was supposed to be a gang of 150, and they had a lot of poles to place in position, but the whole gang kept to one pole at a time, and took nearly an hour at it. It was a big pole, certainly, two feet thick at the base, with a heavy top piece to carry about 80-wires, for there is a lot of new work being done in Seoul now, erecting telegraph and telephone-poles. The gang would raise the end of the pole a foot or two, prop it up, and rest a few minutes. By the time they had it nearly upright, with the foot of the pole resting on the edge of the pit dug to receive it, they found the pit was too narrow, and it took about ten minutes to widen it an inch or two. The order had been issued that all these poles, which have been lying along the roadsides for a long time,

must be up in time for Marquis Ito to see but it was only possible in the time to get about a tenth of them erected.

Still, it is important to note the willingness shown by the Korean officials to do whatever they thought the Japanese would wish. Their intentions seem to be all right, and with patience and plenty of time all will be well with Corea under the Japanese stimulus.

By the way, one of the commonest sights in Seoul would afford English working-men food for thought. Twenty Korean labourers with picks are set to dig up a bad piece of road; they have a rigid rule among themselves that no man must work faster than another, and so when one stops to moisten his hands for a fresh hold of the pick, all stop; and the multiplied delays make the work go more slowly than in any other country I have ever seen. All picks rise simultaneously, then each man slowly looks round to see how the rest are getting on. Then the picks, poised aloft for several seconds, cautiously commence the down-stroke, but nobody dare let his weapon come down smartly, for fear he should get himself disliked for spoiling the unison of the performance. The coups are not quite clever enough to make all the picks chink exactly together, and so at the sound every man has to look at every other, to notice which one was out of time. The resulting slowness is such as "passes all understanding."

Reverting to the subject of epidemics, there is another crying evil that helps to make Corea a plague spot; in all the country there is no such thing as waterworks. Surface-wells, visibly fouled by surface-sewage, are the main source of water-supply in the city, for the river is too far. In the Japanese quarter the wells go deeper and are kept pretty clear of drainage. But as a rule no Korean would take the trouble to dig a well ten feet deep if he found any water at five feet, and no such thing as a filter is ever dreamt of in their philosophy. Tea-drinking and the boiling of the water would no doubt do much to lessen the danger, but that the water is seldom made to really boil, and the poorer classes cannot afford to drink tea always. So death stalks over the land, and plucky little Japan will have to fight a greater foe than the Russian arms.

## TURBINES TRIUMPH.

The adoption of turbine engines for the two Conard levathons is the boldest development in the history of shipbuilding since Brunel built the Great Eastern. If successful, it will sound the death knell of the ordinary type of reciprocating engine for all save small and special purposes. On land turbines have advanced from one great success to another. They are now very largely employed in driving electric lighting machinery, and—greatest triumph of all—the whole of the horsepower required in the big nautical generating station for the electrified "Underground" in London, the largest power station in the world, is to be furnished by Parsons' turbines. One sees the progress of the turbine, since the Turbine astonished experts of all nations at the Jubilee Naval Review, has been a little more chequered. The loss of the *Viper* and the *Cobra*, though due to causes not even remotely associated with their machinery, gave the new mechanism a set-back in the Navy; but we have the *Velox*, a combination of turbine engines for high speed with economical reciprocating engines for cruising purposes, in commission, and the *Amethyst*, a third class cruiser which is to be turbine-driven under construction. On the Clyde and in the Channel turbines have given equally successful results. But it is an enormous stride from a cross-Channel steamer or even a third class cruiser, to the largest and most powerfully engined vessels designed, and herein lies the true enterprise of the decision. However, the conclusion has not been arrived at without elaborate experimentation and trials of unusual magnitude, and the Conard turbines have given equally successful results. But it is an enormous stride from a cross-Channel steamer or even a third class cruiser, to the largest and most powerfully engined vessels designed, and herein lies the true enterprise of the decision. However, the conclusion has not been arrived at without elaborate experimentation and trials of unusual magnitude, and the Conard turbines have given equally successful results.

But the experiment is the success it deserves to be, no one will rejoice more than the marine engineers.

The great advantage of the turbine is the avoidance of the alternate thrust and pull of the reciprocating pattern, which in these days of enormous speed and increased horsepower throw a tremendous strain upon the finest steel.

The absence of vibration, reduced space, and greater simplicity of working parts in the turbine, all alleviate the most serious difficulties the marine engineer has to face.

## DARTRING.

**Superb Skin**

is obtained and maintained by using

**DARTRING** 'LANOLINE'

No imitation can bear the 'Dartring'.

No imitation can be called 'Dartring'.

(DARTRING) TOILET LANOLINE

(DARTRING) 'LANOLINE' TOILET SOAP.

1905-1

## "BILLIARDS"

Our new patent Low Set Express Cushions can be fitted to any Billiard Table, making it for playing purposes as good as new.

(Freight on a case of Cushions to Bombay, Rs. 4/- only.)

BEST AFRICAN IVORY BILLIARD BALLS.

THOROUGHLY SEASONED.

CRYSTALATE AND BONZOLINE BALLS ALL SIZES.

WEST OF ENGLAND BILLIARD CLOTHS A SPECIALITY.

WE HOLD THE LARGEST STOCK OF BILLIARD TABLES, ACCESSORIES  
AND MATERIALS OUT OF LONDON.

ALL ORDERS DESPATCHED BY RETURN MAIL STEAMER.

Illustrated price lists, giving prices and particulars of everything pertaining to billiards, can be had on application from the Officers of this paper.

JOHN ROBERTS & CO., LTD.

BILLIARD TABLE MAKERS AND IVORY TURNERS,

BOMBAY.

Hongkong, 6th April, 1904.

[927-2]

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

FOLDING CANVAS CAMP BEDSTEADS

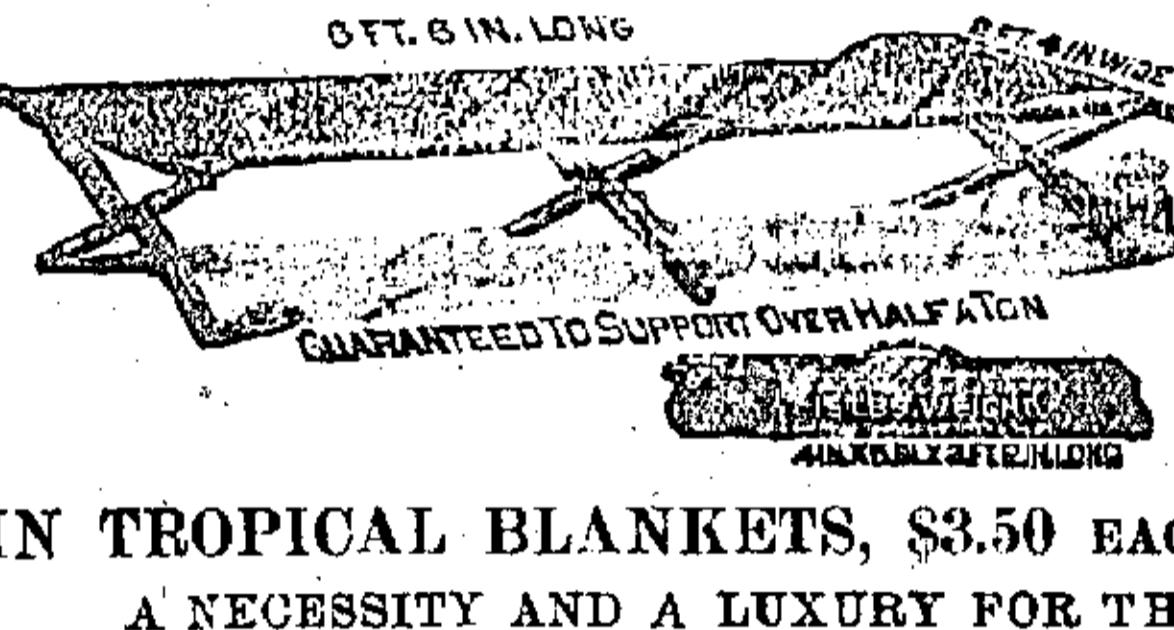
THE MOST

PORTABLE

CAMP BED

STEAD EVER

MADE.



\$9 each.

CLOSED.

THIN TROPICAL BLANKETS, \$3.50 EACH.

A NECESSITY AND A LUXURY FOR THE SUMMER.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE

ROYAL EXCHANGE

PALATINE

ORIENT

Fire Insurance Companies.

Hongkong, 18th August, 1903.

[1319-2]

NEW ORIENTE HOTEL

CORNER REAL AND MAGALLANES, WALLED CITY.

MOST MODERNLY EQUIPPED HOSTELRY IN MANILA, P.I.

HOTEL

Latest and most Sanitary equipment. Electric Lights and Call Bells. Elegantly Furnished Rooms. Coolest Dining Room in Manila.

RESTAURANT

Handsome decorated. Cool and pleasant. Best of attendance. Private dining rooms for parties. Only

## SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

April 25, COULSDON, British str., 2,772, I. J. Henry, Arr. 10th March, Coals.—DODWELL & CO.

April 25, TAMSUI, British steamer, 919, Eady, Shanghai 21st April, General.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

April 25, TELEMACUS, British str., 4,802, J. H. Goodwin, Japan and Shanghai 22nd April, General.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

April 26, BAYERN, German str., 3,500, H. Formes, Bremen and Singapore 22nd April, Mails and General.—MELCHERS & CO.

April 26, BOA, Norwegian str., 738, Mathison, Bangkok 18th April, Rice.—CHINESE.

April 26, CATHARINE ARCA, British steamer, 1,730, A. Stewart, Calcutta 3rd April, Penang 16th and Singapore 20th, General.—DAVIS SAUSSON & CO.

April 25, CHIYODA, Chinose str., 1,177, Stewart, Shanghai 21st April, General.—CHINESE.

April 26, EMMA LUYKEN, German str., 2,450, Martens, Saigon 22nd April, Rice.—B. A. TRADING CO.

April 26, KWANTUNG, Chinese str., from Canton, 2,600, H. Formes, Bangkok 20th April, Rice and Sundries.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

April 26, MADELEINE EICKMERS, German str., 1,020, T. Sanders, Bangkok 20th April, Rice.—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

April 26, MONTEREY, U.S. monitor, from Canton.

April 26, ORANGE, Norwegian str., 1,001, J. J. Dannevig, Newport 4th March, Coal.—ORDER.

April 26, ORIEL, British str., 2,175, G. Maddrell, Moji 20th April, Coal.—BRADLEY & CO.

April 26, PRINZ HEINRICH, German str., 3,902, R. Heinrich, Yokohama 16th April, General.—MELCHERS & CO.

April 26, PROMETHEUS, Norwegian str., 1,024, H. Lersbygg, Bangkok 19th April, Rice.—SANDER, WIELER & CO.

April 26, THALES, British str., 890, Robson, Swatow 25th April, General.—DOUGLAS LAFAIRES & CO.

## CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.

26th April.

COULSDON, British str., for Sasebo.

DECINA, German str., for Saigon.

FEYLE, British str., for Kobe.

LEOKUNG, British str., for Bangkok.

NEGRETTO, British str., for Moji.

STROESSBURG, German str., for Shanghai.

WHAMPAS, British str., for Shanghai.

## DEPARTURES.

25th April.

COWRIE, British str., for Foochow.

MARCO POLO, Italian cruiser, for Chefoo.

26th April.

CHIYUEN, Chinese str., for Canton.

EMMA LUYKEN, German str., for Yokohama.

ERANG, British str., for Canton.

HAICHING, British str., for Coast Ports.

HUE, French str., for Haiphong.

KAMPOT, French str., for Saigon.

LAISANG, British str., for Calcutta.

SAMSEN, German str., for Bangkok.

SAN FRANCISCO, U.S. cruiser, for Manila.

SHAOHSING, British str., for Shanghai.

TAIWAN, British str., for Canton.

TAI IN, British str., for Canton.

TROCAS, British str., for Hankow.

YUENSANO, British str., for Manila.

## VESSELS IN DOCK.

26th April.

ABERDEEN DOCKS.—U.S.S. Monterey.

KOWLOON DOCKS.—H. I. G. M. S. Mowee.

ADMIRALTY, Tweeddale, Hailan, Seaward, Vasco de Gama, Agra, Taiping, Honan, Amara.

COSMOPOLITAN DOCK.—Indraavelli.

## VESSELS PASSED ANJER.

April 8, Dutch str., Sererabaya, Gantvoort, Feb. 27, from Rotterdam for Batavia.

April 9, British 4-m. bge., Puritan, Chapman, Jan. 14, from New York for Anjer.

April 9, Dutch str., Grooten, Le Clercq, Feb. 10, from Rotterdam for Batavia.

April 9, British 4-m. bge., Eclipse, McBryde, Dec. 10, from New York for Hongkong.

April 9, British str., Islander, Wright, April 7, from Singapore for Christmas Island.

April 13, Norwegian str., Premier, Omdensen.

Feb. 18, from Port Natal for Anjer.

April 14, British str., Ulo, Wadze, March 2, from London for Batavia.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH

## FOR KOBE.

THE Steamship

"NITHESDALE."

Captain Cameron, will be despatched for the above port TO-DAY, the 27th inst., at noon.

For Freight, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LTD., Agents.

Hongkong, 26th April, 1904.

## IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.

FOR SHANGAI, NAGASAKI, HIROGO AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Imperial German Mail Steamship

## "BAYERN."

OF THE NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, Captain H. Formes, will leave for the above places TO-DAY, the 27th inst., at 4 P.M.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

For further particulars, apply to

MELCHERS & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1904.

## AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR FIUME AND TRIESTE (DIRECT). Calling at SINGAPORE, PENANG, RANGOON, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ and PORT SAID.

(Taking cargo at through rates to the BRAZILS, to SOUTH AFRICA, RED SEA, BLACK SEA, LEVANT, VENICE and ADELAIDE PORTS).

THE Company's Steamship

## "FRANZ FERDINAND."

Captain Matcovich, will be despatched as above to MORROW, the 28th inst., p.m.

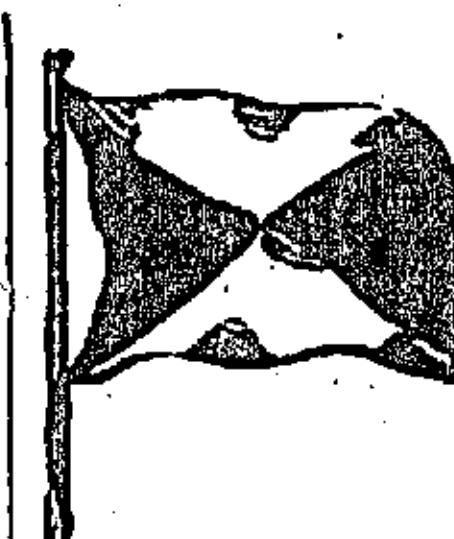
For information as to Passage and Freight, apply to

SANDER, WIELER & CO., Agents.

Princes Building.

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1904.

VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.					
DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAMES	FLAG	CAPTAIN	FOR FREIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
LONDON & ANTWERP, VIA SINGAPORE, &c.	PALAWAN	Brit. str.	J. D. Andrews	P. & O. S. N. Co.	About 27th inst.
LONDON, &c., VIA PORTS OF CALY	MALTA	Brit. str.	C. L. Daniel	P. & O. S. N. Co.	7th May, at Noon.
LONDON & ANTWERP (VIA SUZ CANAL)	BERNALDER	Brit. str.	McIntosh	GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.	About 7th May.
LONDON & ANTWERP	ANTENORE	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	10th May.
LONDON & ANTWERP	ALCINOUS	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	24th May.
LONDON & ANTWERP	PROMETHEUS	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	27th June.
MARSEILLES, &c., VIA PORTS OF CALY	ANNAM	Fren. str.	R. Girard	MESSENGERS MARITIMES	3rd May, at 1 P.M.
BREMEN, VIA PORTS OF CALY	P. HEINRICH	Ger. str.	R. Heintz	MELCHERS & CO.	To-day at Noon.
MARBURG	ARTEMISIA	Ger. str.	Gronemeyer	HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE	15th May.
STRASBURG	MARIA	Ger. str.	Stern	HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE	17th May.
SINGAPORE	SEYDLITZ	Ger. str.	Madsen	HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE	31st May.
NURNBERG	ROON	Ger. str.	Förck	HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE	14th June.
F. FREDERICK	SHAWMUT	Aus. str.	Jahng	HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE	25th June.
ACHILLES	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	Matcovich	SANDER, WIELER & CO.	To-morrow, P.M.
DEUCALION	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	20th May.
SHIMOSA	SHIMOSA	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	14th June.
RAS ISRA	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	DODWELL & CO. LTD.	About early May.
ATHENIAN	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	SHEWAN, TOME & CO.	26th May.
E. OF JAPAN	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	CANADIAN PACIFIC R. CO.	To-day.
CALCHAS	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	CANADIAN PACIFIC R. CO.	11th May.
SHAWMUT	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	17th May.
THINAN	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	DODWELL & CO. LTD.	21st May.
EMPIRE	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	9th May.
PEPA	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.	11th May, Noon.
CHANGSHA	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	P. & O. S. N. CO.	About 2nd May.
NITENSDALE	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	11th May.
BAYERN	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	DODWELL & CO. LTD.	To-day, a.m.
TAIWAN	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	MELCHERS & CO.	To-day at 4 P.M.
E. SIMONS	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	2nd May.
SIMLA	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	MESSENGERS MARITIMES	About 2nd May.
TRIUMPH	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	P. & O. S. N. CO.	About 8th May.
M. STRUVE	SHAWMUT	Jap. str.	A. Hansen	OKA SHOSEN KAISHA	To-day, at 10 A.M.
FEITHOF	SHAWMUT	Jap. str.	T. Brandt	OKA SHOSEN KAISHA	1st May, 10 A.M.
TEITOS	SHAWMUT	Jap. str.	H. A. Haraldsen	OKA SHOSEN KAISHA	8th May, 10 A.M.
THALES	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	Kraft	OKA SHOSEN KAISHA	4th May, 10 A.M.
CHIHLI	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	Robson	DOUGLAS LAPRAKIN & CO.	To-morrow, D'light.
SUNGKANG	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	7th May.
RUMI	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	R. W. Almond	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	29th inst.
SHAWMUT	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	SHEWAN, TOME & CO.	30th inst.
ZAFIRO	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	R. Rodger	DODWELL & CO. LTD.	About 3rd May.
EMPIRE	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	Helms	SHEWAN, TOME & CO.	7th May, 10 A.M.
WUCHANG	SHAWMUT	Brit. str.	...	GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.	11th May, at Noon.
				BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE	To-morrow.



## HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, newest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila. Saloon amidships. Electric Light. Perfect Cuisine. SURGEON and STEWARDES carried. All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

## CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

STEAMSHIP	TONS.	CAPTAIN.	FOR	SAILING DATE.
RUBI	2,540	R. W. Almond	Manila direct.	Sat., 30th April, 10 A.M.
ZAFIRO	2,540	R. Rodger	Manila direct.	Sat., 7th May, 10 A.M.
PERLA	1,930	A. H. Notley	...	

For Freight or Passage apply to

SHEWAN, TOME & CO., GENERAL MANAGERS.

Hongkong, 25th April, 1904.

## HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.

## OSTASIATISCHER FRAUDTAMPFER DIENST.

Taking Cargo at through rates to ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, COPENHAGEN, LISBON, OPORTO, LONDON, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW, TRISTE, GENOA, PORTS in the LEVANTE, BLACK SEA and BALTIK PORTS, NORTH and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
ARTEMISIA	HARVE and HAMBURG	{ On 12th May. Freight.
MARBURG	HARVE, BREMEN and HAMBURG	{ On 17th May. Freight.
STRASSBURG	HARVE and HAMBURG	{ On 31st May. { Freight & Passengers.
SEGOVIA	HARVE and HAMBURG	{ On 14th June. Freight.
NURNBERG	HARVE and HAMBURG	{ On 28th June. Freight.

For Further Particulars, apply to

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE, HONGKONG OFFICE, QUEEN'S BUILDINGS, NO. 1.

13

## PORTLAND &amp; ASIATIC STEAMSHIP CO.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.

TONS. CAPTAIN. TO SAIL ON

ARABIA 4,483

AGRAVIA 5,198

**OCEAN STEAM SHIP CO., LTD.**  
AND  
**CHINA MUTUAL STEAM  
NAVIGATION CO., LTD.**  
JOINT SERVICES.

**MONTHLY SAILINGS FOR LONDON AND CONTINENT.**  
**MONTHLY SAILINGS FOR LIVERPOOL.**

**TAKING CARGO ON THROUGH BILLS OF LADING FOR ALL EUROPEAN,  
NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN, WEST AUSTRALIAN, JAVA,  
AND SUMATRA PORTS.**

**OUTWARDS.**

STEAMERS	DUE
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "EDUCATION".....	On 1st May.
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "ULYSES".....	On 7th May.
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "TENKAI".....	On 13th May.
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "CALHAS".....	On 15th May.
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "DARDANUS".....	On 21st May.
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "YAN TSZE".....	On 28th May.
GLASGOW and LIVERPOOL. "DIOMED".....	On 3rd June.

**HOME WARDS.**

FOR LONDON and ANTWERP.....	STEAMERS "ANTENOR".....	TO SAIL On 10th May.
GENOA, MARSEILLES and LIVERPOOL.....	"ACHILLES".....	On 20th May.
LONDON and ANTWERP.....	"ALCINOUS".....	On 24th May.
LONDON and ANTWERP.....	"PROMETHEUS".....	On 7th June.
GENOA, MARSEILLES and LIVERPOOL.....	"DEUCALION".....	On 14th June.

\* Taking cargo for Liverpool at London rates.

TRANS-PACIFIC SERVICE.

FOR VICTORIA, SEATTLE, TACOMA, and all PACIFIC COAST PORTS, via NAGASAKI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.	STEAMERS "CALCHAS".....	TO SAIL On 17th May.
---	----------------------------	-------------------------

The a.s. "ANHUI" left Port Darwin on the 30th March, for Manila and Hongkong.

For Freight, apply to—

**BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
AGENTS.**

[10-11]

**CHINA NAVIGATION CO.  
LIMITED.**

FOR CEBU and ILOILO	STEAMERS * "WUCHANG".....	TO SAIL On 28th April.
MANILA	* "SUNGKIANG".....	On 29th April.
NINGPO and SHANGHAI	* "ICHANG".....	On 30th April.
SHANGHAI	* "TAIWAN".....	On 2nd May.
SWATOW and TIEN-TIN	* "CHIHLI".....	On 7th May.

PORT DARWIN, THURSDAY,  
ISLAND COOKTOWN, CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, B.R.I.S.B.A.N.E., \* "TSINAN".....  
SYDNEY and MELBOURNE..... \* "CHANGSHA".....  
YOKOHAMA and KOBE..... \* "CHANGSHA".....  
\* The attention of Passengers is directed to the superior accommodation offered by these  
steamers, which are fitted throughout with Electric Light. Unrivalled Table. A duly qualified  
Surgeon is carried.

\* Taking cargo on through bills of lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.

\* Taking cargo and Passengers at through rates for all New Zealand Ports and other  
Australian Ports.

REDUCED SALOON FARES, SINGLE AND RETURN, TO MANILA AND  
AUSTRALIAN PORTS (See Special Advertisement).

For Freight or Passage, apply to—

**BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
AGENTS.**

[12]

Hongkong, 27th April, 1904.

**COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES  
MARITIMES.**  
PAQUEBOTS—POSTE FRANCAISE.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND  
YOKOHAMA.

**T**HE Company's Steamship

“ERNEST SIMONS,”  
Captain Bourdon, will be despatched for the  
above ports on or about MONDAY, the 2nd  
May.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
G. de CHAMPEAUX,  
Agent.

Hongkong, 26th April, 1904.

**AMERICAN ASIATIC STEAMSHIP  
COMPANY.**

FOR NEW YORK VIA SUEZ CANAL.

**T**HE Steamship

“RAS ISSA,”  
will be despatched for the above ports on  
THURSDAY, the 26th May.

For Freight, apply to  
SHEWAN, TOME'S & CO.,  
General Agents.

Hongkong, 25th April, 1904.

1098

**THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL  
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUS-  
TEALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT,  
MEDITERRANEAN PORTS.

PLYMOUTH AND LONDON,  
THROUGH BILLS OF LADING ISSUED FOR  
BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL,  
AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.

**T**HE Steamship

“MALTA,”  
Captain G. L. Daniel, carrying His  
Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this  
for Bombay, etc., on SATURDAY, the 7th  
MAY, at Noon, taking passengers and  
cargo for the above ports.

Silk and Valuables, all cargo for France, and  
Tea for London (under arrangement) will be  
transhipped at Colombo into a steamer pro-  
ceeding direct to Marseilles and London; other  
cargo for London, etc., will be conveyed via  
Bombay.

Parcels will be received at this Office until  
4 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and  
value of all packages are required.

Shippers are particularly requested to note  
the terms and conditions of the Company's  
Bills of Lading.

For further particulars, apply to  
E. A. HEWETT,  
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 26th April, 1904.

1200

**NATAI LINE OF STEAMERS.**

**T**HE Undersigned GENERAL AGENTS  
in CHINA and JAPAN for the above Line  
are prepared to issue THROUGH BILLS  
OF LADING for all the principal ports in

SOUTH AFRICA, in connection with INDO-  
CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO.'s forthcoming  
service hence to CALCUTTA. Sailings from

CALCUTTA for CAPE PORTS every fortnight.

For Freight and further particulars,  
apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED.

General Agents for China and Japan.

Hongkong, 4th August, 1897.

[8]

**HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.**

S.S. "WING CHAI".

Captain Samuel Bell Smith.

DEPARTURES from Hongkong, on week

days, at 7.30 A.M.; on Excursion

Sundays, at 8.30 A.M.; from Macao week days

at about 2 P.M. and Sundays at 7.30 P.M.

FARE—(week days) 1st Class (including cabin

and servant), \$3. Return Ticket \$5.

2nd Class \$1. 3rd Class 50 cents.

On Excursion Sundays 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class

Single Ticket \$2. Return Ticket \$3. Return

Ticket including Cabin and Dinner either on

board or at Macao Hotel \$5. On Sundays \$3

extra will be charged for each Cabin which has

accommodation for two or more Passengers.

Wharf at the Western end of Wing Lok

Street.

The Steamer runs an Excursion Trip Every

Sunday, and takes only 3½ hours to reach Macao.

MING ON & CO.

2nd Floor, 16, Victoria Street.

Hongkong 8th September, 1903.

[1065]

**NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES**

**HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.**

FROM NEW YORK.

S.S. "ARABIA".

CONSIGNEES are hereby informed that

the Cargo on the above steamer has

arrived here by

S.S. "HYSON".

For delivery, apply to

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE,

Hongkong Office.

Hongkong, 20th April, 1904.

[1065]

**OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED,**

AND CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

**CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer**

"PROMETHEUS."

are hereby notified that the Cargo is being

discharged into Craft, and/or landed at the

Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon

Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd, where in both

cases it will lie at Consignee's risk. The Cargo

will be ready for delivery from Craft or Godown

on and after the 25th inst.

Optional cargo will be landed, unless notice

has been given prior to steamer's arrival.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to

be left in the Godowns, where they will be

examined at 11 A.M. on the 29th inst.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods

have left the steamer and all Goods

remaining undelivered after the 29th inst., will be

subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be pre-

sented to the Undersigned on or before the

2nd May, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 22nd April, 1904.

[10-11]

**PORLAND AND ASIATIC STEAM-  
SHIP COMPANY.**

**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.**

STEAMSHIP "INDRAVELLI"

FROM PORTLAND (OR.), YOKOHAMA,  
KOBE, AND MOJI.

## POST OFFICE NOTICES.

Until further notice the transmission of correspondence via Dabu and the Trans-Siberian Railway is discontinued.  
The Ernest Sintons, with the French mail of 1st April, left Singapore on Monday, the 25th inst., at 5 p.m., and will be expected here on or about Monday, the 2nd May. This packet brings replies to 20 letters despatched from Hongkong on 27th February.

The *Coptic*, with the American mail, left Yokohama on Friday, the 22nd inst., via Kobe, Nagasaki and Manila, and may be expected here on or about Monday, the 2nd prox.

## MAILS WILL CLOSE

FOR	PEE	DATE
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 7.30 A.M.
Swatow and Bangkok		Wednesday, 27th, 9.00 A.M.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow		Wednesday, 27th, 9.00 A.M.
Amoy		Wednesday, 27th, 10.00 A.M.
Baiphong		Wednesday, 27th, 10.00 A.M.
Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Victoria and Vancouver (B.C.)		Wednesday, 27th, 10.45 A.M.
EUROPE, &c., India via Tucicorin		Wednesday, 27th, 10.45 A.M.
(Late Letters 11.00 to 11.30 A.M. Extra Postage 10 cents.)		Wednesday, 27th, 10.45 A.M.
(Letters posted in the Peak Pillar Boxes in time for the first clearance will be included in this contract mail.)		Wednesday, 27th, 10.45 A.M.

Macao		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Shanghai		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Snigon		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Kobs		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Amoy, Straits and Rangoon		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Swatow, Singapore and Bangkok		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Namao		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Sanbo		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Macao		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Cebu and Illoilo		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Singapore		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Manila		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Canton		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Manila		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO		(Supplementary mail on board up to the time fixed for departure of the mail. Extra Postage 10 cents.)

Europe, &c., India via Tucicorin		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
(Late Letters 11.00 to 11.30 A.M. Extra Postage 10 cents.)		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
(Letters posted in the Peak Pillar Boxes in time for the first clearance will be included in this contract mail.)		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Manila		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
Port Darwin, Thursday Island, Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.

SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER (B.C.)		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
(Supplementary mail on board up to the time fixed for departure of the mail. Extra Postage 10 cents.)		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.

Yokohama and Kobs		Wednesday, 27th, 11.00 A.M.
THE GEBMAN MAIL.		The Post Office declines all responsibility for unregistered letters containing bank notes or jewellery, and where Registration has been neglected, WILL MAKE NO ENQUIRIES into alleged losses of such letters (Postal Guide, 120).

Local Deliveries.—Separate Boxes have been provided for posting Correspondence for the Town, Kowloon, and the Peak. The Boxes are under the Window at the East end of the Verandah in Queen's Road.		
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REGISTRATION.—Correspondence can be registered for all Private Ship mails and for the Shanghai or Japan contract mails up to a quarter of an hour before the time for closing; for India, Northern Pacific and Torres Straits mails up to half an hour before. For mails, for Europe, America and Canada, Registration closes one hour before the time of closing the ordinary mails, but letters for despatch by these mails may be registered with a late fee up to a quarter of an hour before the time of closing the ordinary mails.		
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## TO-DAY.

Sale, Damaged Cargo, H. and K. Wharf and Godown Co., Kowloon, Messrs. Hughes and Hough, 11 a.m.		
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Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, 3.30 p.m.		
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## TO-MORROW.

Sale, Household Furniture, Sales Rooms, Messrs. Hughes & Hough, 2.30 p.m.		
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Sale, Household Furniture, 14, Knutsford Terrace, Kowloon, Mr. Geo. F. Lammet, 2.45 p.m.		
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## COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.		26th April.
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ON LONDON.—		
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Telegraphic Transfer		1.91
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Bank Bills, on demand		1.91
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Credits, 60 days' sight		4.48
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Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight		1.91
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Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight		1.91
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Credits, at 4 months' sight		1.91
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Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight		9.11
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ON PARIS.—		
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Bank Bills, on demand		2.24
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Credits, at 4 months' sight		2.24
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ON GERMANY.—		1.83
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ON NEW YORK.—		
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Bank Bills, on demand		4.73
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Credits, 60 days' sight		4.48
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Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight		1.91
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Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight		1.91
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Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight		9.11
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ON BOMBAY.—		
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Telegraphic Transfer		1.

## HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the report of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, for the year ending 31st December, 1903, for presentation to the members at the annual meeting, to be held at 3:30 p.m. today:—

During the past year, which was somewhat encroached upon by 1902 Report, fewer subjects have engaged the attention of the Chamber, but much satisfactory work has nevertheless been accomplished in certain directions.

## SUSCON CONVENTION.

A copy of this Convention, which came into force on the 1st September, 1902, was published in the last Report. Since then much progress has been made by the Permanent Commission in putting through the necessary legislative machinery in order to comply with the terms of the Convention.

As the Imperial Government undertook, on behalf of the Colonies not possessing responsible Governments (of which Hongkong is one) to take the necessary measures to prevent bounty-fed sugar which has passed in transit through the territory of a contracting State from enjoying the benefits of the Convention in the market to which it is being sent, local legislation became necessary, and a Sub-Committee, composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Hon. C. W. Dickson, was therefore appointed to watch the effects of the findings of the Permanent Commission on the import and export sugar trade of Hongkong. At the Government's request various suggestions have been made during the year with the object of leading the proposed legislation in the direction best suited to the peculiar conditions of the trade in this Colony. The Colonial Secretary for the time being has been appointed as the "Fiscal Authority" in Hongkong.

## JAPANESE MARKETS AND HONGKONG SUGAR.

The Consul for Japan in Hongkong having written to the *Daily Press* protesting against the imputation levelled by that paper against Japan for the discriminating treatment accorded in Japan to Hongkong sugars as compared with Japanese manufactured sugars, a letter was sent to the Consul calling attention to certain inaccuracies in his letter, and the opportunity was taken to point out that, although the discrimination alluded to in his letter may have been aimed chiefly against bounty-fed Continental sugar, it obviously applied equally to sugar from Hongkong not bounty-fed and there was wanting any evidence of a desire on the part of Japan to treat Hongkong products as Japanese products are treated in this Colony.

## LICENSING OF PILOTS.

It will be remembered that a long correspondence with the Government took place in 1902 with the object of making it obligatory on the part of the pilots plying for hire within the waters of the Colony to register themselves with, and prove their qualifications before, a Board having the requisite authority from the Government to act, and although, as was pointed out, similar regulations were in force dealing with the coxswains and engineers of steam launches, the Government could not then see its way to extend the principle to pilots.

The Committee again brought the matter forward in December last and instanced the flagrant incompetence of the pilot on board the *s.s. "Tjipanah"* when he steamed over the wreck of the "Pakshan," which happened to be indifferently buoyed with danger signals. The Captain was fined for negligent seamanship by the Harbour Master, who would neither recognise the part played by the pilot nor allow him to give evidence.

The Government replied that the matter was receiving attention, and recently a Bill has been introduced by the Government dealing with the question.

## BROKERAGE ON STOCKS AND SHARES.

The Committee proposed to the Stockbrokers' Association of Hongkong that brokerage should be borne by the seller only, as the present system in virtue of charging both buyer and seller with brokerage precluded the brokers from acting impartially for both parties. Unfortunately the association was unable to see the force of the argument, contending that the danger of partiality would only be accentuated by the change inasmuch as a broker might consider his duty was due more to the seller from whom he would receive his commission than to the buyer from whom he would not receive any brokerage, whereas under the present system it is the imperative duty of a broker receiving his commission from both sides to see, to the best of his ability, that both buyer and seller are treated with the greatest impartiality and in accordance with the ruling rates on the market.

## SIR ERNEST SATOW'S INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMITTEE.

Following the precedent set on former visits of H.B.M.'s Ministers at Peking to the Colony, the Committee took the opportunity of inviting Sir Ernest Satow, G.C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in China, to meet them and receive an Address on the various questions awaiting settlement relating to the Colony's commercial dealings with China, amongst which were:—

## Obstructions in the Canton River.

Registration of Native-owned Junks under Foreign Flags.

## Piracy on the West River.

## Inland Navigation Rules.

## Absconding Chinese Debtors.

## National Coinage for China.

## Payment of Customs Duties in Gold.

British Commercial Treaty of Shanghai, 1902.

Proposed Increase of Taxation on Opium at Canton.

The meeting took place in the Chamber Room on the 6th August, and, after the Address had been read by the Chairman, His Excellency proceeded to discuss the subjects touched upon therein, taking them *seriatim*, asking for further

information on several points, of which he made notes, and promising to give his early attention to all on his arrival in Peking. He concluded by expressing his gratification at having been afforded the opportunity of meeting the Committee and thus being able to interchange views with them, and add an assurance of his readiness at all times to consider questions which might be brought to his notice by the Chamber.

The Committee have reason to believe that this interview will strengthen the Chamber's future relations with H.B.M.'s Foreign Office Representative in China and lead to even more ready and sympathetic acquiescence in the views from time to time laid before His Excellency.

## ADDITIONAL TAX ON FOREIGN OPIUM AT CANTON.

A proclamation issued by the Viceroy's authority with regard to the re-imposition of an additional tax on foreign Opium in the Two Kwang Provinces appeared in Canton in June last, and as prompt measures were necessary in order to prevent the collection of this illegal tax, a telegram was despatched to Mr. Walter Townley, H.B.M.'s Charge d'Affaires, Peking, protesting against the proposed re-introduction in modified form of the tax which was successfully opposed after negotiation extending over seven months in 1902. Full details followed by letter and support also solicited from H.E. the Governor and Mr. Consul-General Scott. Energetic steps were taken by Mr. Walter Townley and Mr. James Scott at Peking and Canton respectively, with the result that in August last the Committee had the satisfaction of learning that the extinction had once more been stopped.

## OFFICIAL CODE VOCABULARY.

Since 1890 the Telegraph Companies have been striving to impress on the Mercantile Community of the World an Official Code Vocabulary, and with equal regularity this Chamber along with many others, chief of whom was the London Chamber, has strongly protested against such an arbitrary measure, which would have had the effect of forcing a higher rate of expenditure upon those who use cables by restricting the number of words and signs at their disposal and also throw upon owners of private codes great inconvenience and expense through the necessary amendment of their codes, which in many cases have been compiled at great expense and years of work.

The support of the Home Government Postal Authorities was obtained, and instead of the compulsory vocabulary, the International Conference decided to alter the rules relating to codes, and after 1st July, 1904, any combination of letters not exceeding ten in number will be passed as a code-word, provided that it is pronounceable according to the use of the language to which code-words have been limited, other combinations of letters will be counted as five letters to the word and the prohibition of letter ciphers which hitherto prevailed, is removed.

## THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The resolution passed at the Special General Meeting of Members held on 18th February, 1903, in favour of the Straits Currency Commission extending its inquiries to Hongkong with a view to ascertaining whether reform of the Colony's currency arrangements is advisable, was communicated by H.E. Sir Henry Blake to Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who in reply referred to the resolutions passed at the conference between delegations from United States, China, Mexico, and Great Britain regarding the monetary systems of silver-using countries and the establishment of a National Currency in the Chinese Empire, Resolution No. 2 reading as follows:—

"That a national currency for the Chinese Empire, consisting of silver coins which shall be full legal tender throughout the Empire, is urgently desirable."

"As soon as practicable, steps should be taken for the establishment in China of a fixed relation between the silver unit and gold."

Mr. Chamberlain considered it would be inexpedient to appoint a Commission to inquire into the Hongkong Currency arrangements as it appeared to be out of the question to entertain the idea of adopting a gold standard of currency in the Colony while China remains a silver standard country.

The Tientsin Chamber having been informed that the Chinese Government were anxious to take action with regard to its Currency invited the Shanghai and Hongkong Chambers of Commerce to join in drawing up a Memorial to the Diplomatic Body in Peking with the object of instigating sympathetic support by that Body with the aims of the Chinese Authorities. Your Committee advised that the first step towards a solution of this complicated question should be the establishment of a uniform national currency, as provided for by Article 11 of the British Commercial Treaty of Shanghai of 1902, as until reform in this direction was carried out, it would not be possible to satisfactorily deal with the question of stability of exchange in China. The Tientsin and Shanghai Chambers agreed to this course of action, as well as to the proposed absorption, instead of the closing, of the provincial Mint, and the joint memorial from the three bodies was despatched to each Member of the Diplomatic Body in Peking, the Doyen of whom replied that the Diplomatic Body was highly interested and greatly appreciated the efforts and zeal of the signatory Chambers of Commerce. Nothing, however, has transpired as to what efforts have since been made to further the matter with the Chinese Government, but it is no doubt too early to expect that any material result has been attained in this direction at the time of writing.

THE CROWN AGENTS AND CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE FIRMS.

The Ceylon Chamber having asked for the opinion of this Chamber with regard to the working of the Crown Agent System in Hongkong, the Chamber's Representative, Hon. R. Shawan, put a series of questions at a subsequent meeting of the Legislative Council, and from the answers given by the Government and the

Report of the Commission appointed by H.E. the Governor in 1901 to inquire into the working of the Public Works Department, the Committee came to the conclusion that the cost to the Colony through the employing of the Crown Agents was not incommensurate with the services rendered. The advisability of all Government supplies being purchased locally was dealt with, and the view expressed that public works of "a special nature or of urgency" might be entrusted to private firms. The Ceylon Chamber's reply contained an expression of thanks for the information sent from Hongkong.

## PROHIBITION OF COOLIE IMMIGRATION AT SINGAPORE.

The Committee of the Singapore Chamber wrote in June last explaining the reasons which had prompted it to support the Government in connection with the prohibition of the immigration of coolies from Hongkong on account of the prevalence of Plague in this port and inquiring whether some means of examining Chinese passengers could not be devised of so stringent a nature as would reduce to a minimum the chances of Plague cases occurring on the voyage or on arrival at Singapore. After full consideration, a reply was sent expressing the opinion that no examination would be adequate to prevent Plague occurring on the voyage, and pointing out that the profit on the trade would not permit of any further expenses being incurred by the steamship owners here. A suggestion was made that if Chinese labour is necessary to supply the labour market of the Straits Settlements, it might be of advantage to found a segregation camp on one of the numerous adjacent islands from which the transfer of the coolies into Singapore could be regulated in accordance with the requirements of that Colony and at the expense of the employers of labour there who profit by employing Chinese coolies.

There is reason to believe that the Singapore Government recognises that the only way out of the difficulty would be the adoption of some such system, as the Chamber of Commerce there recommended the extension of the existing quarantine station and segregation camp on St. John's Island.

## EXPLOSIVES ON BOARD STEAMERS IN THE HARBOUR.

The Government were approached with the object of restricting the disabilities under which steamers carrying small quantities of dangerous goods are under on arrival in the Harbour. The fact of the port being free emphasized the belief that at least similar regulations might be applied as are in vogue at the Treaty Ports of China, but the Government could not see its way to go as far in this direction. Some concessions were, however, granted, the value of which depend on the promptness of the Harbour Office Officials in meeting incoming steamers, thereby preventing delay. It is hoped that before long the Government may be induced to do away with any unnecessary restrictions of this nature.

## TELEGRAM DEPOSIT SYSTEM.

At the end of August last some internal arrangements in the Joint Administration of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co., and the Great Northern Telegraph Co., induced these Companies to cease the old system of demanding just sufficient cover from their regular customers to meet current indebtedness. The new regulations, published at two days' notice, demanded a deposit in the joint names of the two Companies at a special Bank, a sum of money equal to the average monthly account of each sender of telegrams, or if this were not agreed to, cash payments to be made for each separate message as sent. At the request of several Members of the Chamber, a strong protest was made against so high-handed a proceeding. A long correspondence ensued, in which it was pointed out amongst other arguments that:—

(1) Longer notice should have been given.

(2) The injustice of a person desiring to do business with only one of the two Companies being obliged to deposit his money with both jointly.

(3) That to make the amount deposited equal to an average month's telegram account was tantamount to making each depositor a creditor of the Companies for the greater portion of each month, which was more than the joint Administration were entitled to, and that a reduction of the deposit by one half would be a more equitable proceeding.

(4) That the claim by the Companies to the whole of the interest allowed by the Bank on the deposits was unjust and contrary to custom, and the argument for the retention of the interest by the Telegraph Companies as put forward by them on the ground of the credit allowed and trouble of bookkeeping was considered by the Chamber to be unreasonable.

(5) That if all senders of telegrams elected to pay cash for each telegram sent, much expense, delay and consequent annoyance to the whole Mercantile Community would result, as the handling of cash in small amounts is not a quick process, especially in this Colony.

The Acting Director (Mr. Figg) reported that the Observatory was well equipped with Meteorological instruments.

## REDUCED CABLE RATES TO EUROPE.

The hope expressed in last year's Report that the repeated representations to the Cable Companies on the subject of the excessive rates charged might not be without effect at the International Telegraph Conference in May, 1903, fortunately turned out to be correct, as from the 15th July, 1903, the rate to Europe was dropped from France 7 to 5.50, a reduction of over 20 per cent. The competition of the new Pacific Cable to Manila has been the direct cause of the lower rates for which the Committee have been agitating for years past.

## CONVEYANCE OF AUSTRALIAN MAIIS VIA HONGKONG AND THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

The Council of the North Australian League forwarded resolutions in favour of the quicker transit of London Mails to Australia and the desirability of inaugurating as soon as the Adelaide-Port Darwin Railway line is completed of a mail service via the Trans-Siberian Railway to China and thence via Hongkong or Canton by first steamer service to Port Darwin.

(b.) That in view of Dr. Jordan's long service as Health Officer of the Port, His Excellency recommended that he should be allowed to retain his private practice on shore, but only on the distinct understanding that when himself engaged in private practice he will always place at the disposal of this Government another Officer as his substitute to discharge the duties of Health Officer of the Port, and who will not take private practice on board ships.

(c.) His Excellency further recommended that if Dr. Jordan was not willing to accept these conditions, another Health Officer of the Port should be appointed in his place on the same terms as those offered to the Second Health Officer of the Port.

## ORDINANCE 1904.

This Bill, which became law on 23rd February, 1904, was introduced in the Legislative Council last August under the name of "Imbecile Immigration Ordinance." Its conditions were so onerous that the Chamber strongly opposed each stage in Council through the Acting Representative of the Chamber, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and the Government were induced to somewhat restrict the proposed liabilities under which Owners, Charterers, Agents, Consignees and Masters of vessels were to be subjected to for landing persons in the Colony who afterwards became lunatic, etc., and a charge on the rates within 6 months of such landing. The period of 6 months was finally reduced to three months, the aggregate expense limited to \$5,000, exemption permitted if it could be proved that such person became lunatic, etc., after embarkation at the port of place from which he shipped and the right given to demand from the Authorities a certificate of refusal of permission to land.

With these concessions the Committee had to be content, but they regard with some concern the resolute desire of the Government to saddle the shipping interest with expenses which threaten to deprive Hongkong of its advantage as a cheap transhipping port. Your Committee have had in mind throughout their deliberations on this Ordinance that the retention of freedom from direct taxation and the repression of useless restrictions is the policy which the shipping passing through the harbour should be treated if its present volume is to be maintained or increased.

The shipping Firms and Agencies supported the action of the Committee by addressing a petition to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government in which very strong arguments were brought forward for the withdrawal of the Bill, but unfortunately His Excellency refused to comply with the wishes of the Petitioners.

## MEMBERS.

The present membership is 144, showing an increase of 8 Firms and Public Companies and 3 private individuals, who now number 117 and 27 respectively.

Messrs. Deacon and Hastings and Edwards, Piry & Co., Ltd., have resigned their membership, and the Holland-China Trading Co. took over the membership of Messrs. Hotz & Jacob & Co.

The following have been admitted to membership subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting:—

Messrs. Goddard and Douglas, Barretto and Co., Lamko and Rogge, E. C. Wilks and Co., Chun On Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Shiu S. S. Co., Ltd., Osaka Shosen Kaisha, Java-China-Japan Lijn, China and Japan Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., Deacon, Looker and Deacon, Mr. E. H. Sharp, K. C., Mr. G. C. Monks, and Mr. A. M. Essabhey.

## THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Since its election at the last Annual Meeting in May last, the only changes taking place have been the temporary substitution of Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., for Mr. R. Shawan as ex-officio Member in August last, and Mr. C. Michelau having left the Colony in January, 1904, Mr. A. Haupt was invited to re-join the Committee.

## DEUTER'S POLITICAL TELEGRAMS.

The exertions of the Committee in 1902 were rewarded by H.E. the Governor agreeing in May last to introduce the flag system of weather signals as worked at Shanghai for the information of Shipmasters, but without displacing the cone system in use. His Excellency's opinion and that of his expert advisers was stated as being that the cone system was a better and safer system and familiar to the local junk population. It will be remembered that at the commencement of the discussion the Chamber suggested the introduction of a flag system, but His Excellency then arrived at the conclusion that an alteration in the Hongkong system of signalling storms was not desirable and that a system of flag signals to convey weather information was, for the reasons indicated by the Acting Director, not suited to local conditions.

Eventually the Chamber drew an extended code of symbol signals for day, and lantern signals for night work, to meet the objections raised against flags as well as on economical grounds.

Now that the Government has introduced the Shanghai flag system it is felt that at least a fair trial may be given to it and objections raised later if found necessary.

The Committee have pleasure in reporting that the joint representations of the Chamber, and that of Amoy to the Hongkong Government which were strongly supported by H.E. Sir Henry Blake, and referred to in last year's report, have had a satisfactory issue.

Parcels may now be sent direct from Hongkong to post offices in the United States, and there is little doubt that this service will rapidly prove a great convenience and incentive to trade.

## ARBITRATIONS.

During the year 8 differences between buyer and seller were referred to the Chamber by Members, and the expert survey reports made on the goods in dispute were in all cases accepted by the applicants.

As one of the objects of the Chamber is to encourage reference to arbitration in trade disputes instead of by redress in the Law Courts, the Committee consider it satisfactory to place on record the increased inclination on the part of manufacturers and merchants in Europe to refer surveys to be conducted under the auspices of the Chambers of Commerce.

## FINANCERS.

The Pinnacle Rock Fund amounts with interest to \$4,256.84 and is separately invested, partly in Hongkong Hotel Co. 6 per cent. Debentures purchased on 31st December last at par, and the balance in 4s per cent. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Fixed Deposit. No demands have been made on the Fund during the year for discovery of rocks dangerous to navigation.

The income shows a satisfactory increase over that of the previous year, chiefly resulting through the increased membership, but on the other hand the expenditure has been greater.

The surplus is \$364.27, bringing the Reserve Fund up to \$12,847.27 at the end of the year.

It will be noted that in order to obtain a larger income in future years, the Bank Debentures on general account have been withdrawn and re-invested on 3

## BANKS

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL..... 21,500,000

SUBSCRIBED..... 11,250,000

PAID-UP..... 5,625,000

RESERVE FUND..... 60,000

BALANCE.....

LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

INTEREST allowed on Current Accounts at the rate of 2% per annum on the Daily balance

OF FIXED DEPOSITS:-

For 12 months..... 4%

" 6 " ..... 3%

" 3 " ..... 2%

T. P. C. ORMSTON, Manager.

Hongkong, 23rd May, 1903. [22]

THE BANK OF TAIWAN (FORMOSA), LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL IMPERIAL CHARTER.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL..... Yen 5,000,000

PAID-UP CAPITAL..... 2,500,000

HEAD OFFICE: TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 4, QUEEN'S ROAD (Facing Duddell Street).

BRANCHES: AMOY, KOBE, TAINAN.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.

On current account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On fixed deposits for 12 months 5% per annum

" 6 " 4%

" 3 " 3%

S. SHIGENAGA, Manager.

Hongkong, 2nd February, 1903. [103]

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital Surplus and Undivided Profits, Gold \$7,992,173.37—about £1,640,000.

Capital and Surplus authorized, Gold \$10,000,000—£2,055,000.

HEAD OFFICE: 1, WALL STREET, NEW YORK.

LONDON OFFICE: THREADNEEDLE HOUSE, E.C.

Branches at SAN FRANCISCO, WASHINGTON, MEXICO, MANILA, SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE, YOKOHAMA, BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, and Agents all over the World.

London and Continental Bankers: NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.

UNION OF LONDON & SMITH'S BANK, LIMITED.

CREDIT LYONNAIS, DEESDNER BANK, COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPT DE PARIS, &c.

The Corporation transacts every description of Banking and Exchange business, receives money in Current Account and issues Fixed Deposit Receipts either in Gold or Silver at rates which may be ascertained on application.

HONGKONG BRANCH:

20, LES VIEUX ROAD CENTRAL, CHARLES R. SCOTT, Manager.

Hongkong, 15th December, 1903. [103]

RUSSO-CHINESE BANK

ORGANISED UNDER IMPERIAL DECREE OF 10TH DECEMBER, 1895.

CAPITAL..... Roubles 15,000,000

CAPITAL contributed by CHINESE GOVERNMENT..... 5,000,000 Kuping Tael.

(EQUIVALENT TO..... £2,150,000 Stg.).

RESERVE FUND..... Roubles 2,060,000

SPECIAL RESERVES..... Roubles 1,700,000

HEAD OFFICE—ST. PETERSBURG.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

Andijan Kharaboyk Port Arthur

Batum Kholomli Samarkand

Blagowestchensk Klinchets Shanghai

Bodaibo Kirin Strelensk

Boukhara Koba Tachkent

Bukh Krasnoiarsk Tchita

Choofo Kwantchow Thoutchouw

Dalniy Moscow Tielin

Hailar Moukden Tientsin

Hakodate Nagasaki Tsitsikar

Hankow Nanchang Verchouendinsk

Harbin Nanking Verny

Hongkong Oulaiatiai Vladivostock

Irkoutsk Ourga Yochkoma

Kalgan Paris Zeiskan Pristan

Kuskiar Peking

BANKERS.

LONDON—Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.; PARIS—Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas.

BERLIN—Mendelsohn & Co.

HAMBURG—M. M. Warburg & Co.

VIENNA—L. K. P. Oester. Credit Anstalt fur Handel Gewerbe.

AMSTERDAM—Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co.

Local Bills discounted.

Special facilities for Russian exchange.

Foreign exchange on the principal cities of the world bought and sold.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

TEMPORARY OFFICES WHILE NEW OFFICES IN PRINCES' BUILDINGS ARE BEING BUILT.

VICTORIA HOTEL BUILDINGS,

Ice House Street.

Hongkong, 14th July, 1903. [21]

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 185 HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

CAPITAL PAID-UP..... £300,000

RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS..... £2,000,000

RESERVE FUND..... £735,000

INTEREST allowed on Current Account at the rate of 2% per annum on the Daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months 5% per annum on the daily balance.

For 12 months 5% per annum

" 6 " 4%

" 3 " 3%

T. P. COCHRANE, Manager.

Hongkong, 18th May, 1903. [97]

## BANKS

## HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of the above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Information may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed at 3% per cent. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option balances of £100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

J. R. M. SMITH, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 1st May, 1902. [22]

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL..... \$10,000,000

RESERVE FUND..... \$1,000,000

SILVER RESERVE .. 6,500,000

\$10,500,000

RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS \$10,000,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS.

A. J. RAYMOND, Esq.—Chairman.

H. E. TOMKINS, Esq.—Deputy Chairman.

Hon. C. W. Dickson, N. A. Siebs, Esq.

E. Goetz, Esq. H. W. Slade, Esq.

A. Haupt, Esq. C. A. Tomes, Esq.

H. S. Hobart, Esq. E. S. Wheeler, Esq.

E. Shellton, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER:

Hongkong—J. R. M. SMITH

MANAGER:

Shanghai—H. M. BEVIS.

LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Current Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits for 12 months 5% per annum

" 6 " 4%

" 3 " 3%

S. SHIGENAGA, Manager.

Hongkong, 2nd February, 1903. [103]

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL..... Sh. Tael 5,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Berlin—Calcutta—Hankow—Tientsin

BRANCHES:

Calcutta—Hankow—Tientsin

Hongkong—Kwangtung—Tientsin

London—Shanghai—Tientsin

Paris—Tientsin—Tientsin

Shanghai—Tientsin—Tientsin

Tientsin—Tientsin—Tientsin

Tientsin—Tientsin—Tientsin